

q&a



What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant Program gives money to **current or former foster youth** to use for career and technical training *or* college courses. You don't have to pay this money back and you can use it for things like child care, transportation and rent. The Chafee Grant Program, also known as the Education and Training Voucher (ETV), is a federally funded program and is subject to the availability of federal funds each year.



How do I qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- be eligible, or have been eligible, for foster care between your 16th and 18th birthday
- **not** have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1, of the award year

What do I need to apply?

You must be enrolled in:

- an eligible career or technical school or college (You can contact the Commission to verify that your school is eligible.)
- a course of study at least half-time
- a course of study that is at least one year long
- *and* maintain satisfactory academic progress - get good grades.



How do I apply?

File two forms:

- *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, or FAFSA. File online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. or get a paper form from your school.
- *California Chafee Grant Program Application*. Apply online or send the paper form to the Commission. The form is on our Web site at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov, or you may call the Commission for an application.

What happens after I apply?

- The Commission will review your award year FAFSA and your Chafee Grant Application.
- The California Department of Social Services will verify your Independent Living Program (ILP) status.
- Your school financial aid office will determine your financial aid eligibility.
- Once all of the above is completed, the Commission will send you a letter notifying you of your award status.



How will I get the grant?

Your grant will be sent to the vocational school or college where you are enrolled. Check with your school's financial aid office about how the school will distribute the grant.

How do I renew my Chafee Grant?

It's easy! All you need to do is complete the FAFSA for the award year. Renewal students do not need to submit another Chafee Grant application for each award year. The Commission will contact the Financial Aid Office of your career and technical school or college to verify you are enrolled at least half-time, you are maintaining satisfactory academic progress and you have a financial aid need.

MOVING?

It is important to report any name, address or school changes to the Commission as soon as possible to avoid any delay in the award process.



No Social Security number? Students without an SSN or who are unable to complete a FAFSA must have their school contact the Commission for further instructions and assistance. If you have questions, you can contact the Commission at 1-888-224-7268.

What kinds of schools or colleges can I attend in California?

You can attend participating campuses of the:

- California Community Colleges
- California State University
- Career and technical colleges
- Independent colleges
- Private colleges
- University of California



Can I attend a school or college outside California?

Yes, you can attend the same types of schools or colleges as listed above as long as they meet certain criteria.

If you have a question regarding a college, contact the Commission. (See back of the brochure)



Could I lose California Chafee Grant benefits?

Yes, if your enrollment falls below half-time in the term(s) awarded, or if you fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Can others help me learn about Chafee Grants for current or former foster youth?

Yes, for more information, contact your:

- college counselor
- college financial aid office
- county/college ILP Coordinator
- One-Stop Career Centers
- social worker/probation officer
- www.chafee.csac.ca.gov



**Get even more cash
for college!**

Filling out a FAFSA is the *first* step to applying for thousands of dollars in other financial aid including:

- ◆ Cal Grants
- ◆ Pell Grants
- ◆ Board of Governors' (BOG) Fee Waivers
- ◆ Campus and other aid

Get hands-on help completing the FAFSA and other financial aid forms at a California Cash for College Workshop held in January and February of each year. To locate a workshop near you, visit www.californiacashforcollege.org or call 1-888-CA-GRANT.

Scholarships and other resources for foster youth attending a career and technical school or college can be accessed through the following resources.

- ◆ California Community Colleges
www.icanaffordcollege.edu
- ◆ Casey Family Foundation
www.caseyfamily.org
- ◆ EOPS - Education Opportunity Program and Services - contact your school coordinator for more information
- ◆ FinAid -- free scholarship search engine
www.finaid.org
- ◆ Guardian Scholars Program
www.fullerton.edu/guardianscholars/
- ◆ Orangewood Children's Foundation
www.orangewoodfoundation.org
- ◆ Orphan Foundation of America
www.orphan.org
- ◆ Transitional Housing Services - contact your ILP coordinator

How can I contact the Commission?

If you have questions regarding the California Chafee Grant Program:



Visit the Commission's Chafee Grant Web site at:
www.chafee.csac.ca.gov



Email your questions to the Commission at:
studentsupport@csac.ca.gov



Call the Commission at:
1-888-224-7268 from 8:00 a.m. until
4:55 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Write the Commission at:
California Student Aid Commission
Specialized Programs Operations Branch
Attn: California Chafee Grant Program
P. O. Box 419029
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029

Let's keep in touch!

Contact the Commission whenever there are changes in your:

- ◆ Email address
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Mailing address
- ◆ Name
- ◆ School of attendance
- ◆ Social Security number (SSN)
- ◆ Telephone number



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foster youth

**Current or former
foster youth?
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for training
or college!**



**California
Chafee Grant
Program**

